

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CARACA 05357 131648Z

43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 DRC-01 RSC-01 /030 W

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R 131536Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4179

INFO AMCONSUL MARACAIBO

UNCLAS CARACAS 05357

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, VE

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK ACQUISITION

REF: STATE 114757

1. VENEZUELA HAS NO RAILWAYS EXCEPT FROM BAQUISIMETO TO SEA AND IRON ORE LINES. PULLMAN-STANDARD MIGHT HAVE HEARD ABOUT NEWS RELEASE IN VENEZUELA, ACCORDING TO WHICH A PROJECT STUDY IS TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN NEXT THREE MONTHS, RELATED TO POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF 4.000 KILOMETERS OF RAILROAD IN VENEZUELA.

2. THIS IS ANOTHER OF MANY TIMES THAT NATIONAL RAILROAD INSTITUTE HAS ELABORATED PROJECTS. THERE IS NO CERTAINLY WHETHER THIS OR PARTS OF IT WILL EVER BE BUILT. OPINIONS IN GOVERNMENT ARE DIVIDED AS TO FEASIBILITY AND ECONOMIC WORTH OF SUCH UNDERTAKING AND NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO BUILD A RAILROAD SYSTEM. WITH THE EXISTING EXCELLENT HIGHWAY NETWORK AS COMPETITION, AND GIVEN THE PROJECTED LOW FREIGHT AND PASSENGER VOLUME, A RAILWAY NETWORK WOULD HAVE TO BE HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED. AIRLINES AND TRUCKERS UNIONS HAVE ALWAYS FOUGHT SIMILAR PROJECTS.

3. CORPOZULIA, THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION OF ZULIA STATE, PLANS TO EXPLOIT COAL DEPOSITS IN THAT STATE BY 1977, AND PLANS THE CONSTRUCTION OF RAILROAD TO TRANSPORT COAL FROM GUASARE TO GULF OF VENEZUELA. AGAIN, THIS PROJECT IS NOT APPROVED AND THERE IS NO UNCLASSIFIED

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CERTAINTY THAT IT WILL EVER BE BUILT.

4. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE OBSERVATION OF PROJECTS AND
WILL REPORT DEVELOPMENTS.
MCCLINTOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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